Claims

1. A saw blade for cutting friable, heterogeneous material including the combination of snow and ice, the saw blade comprising:

a) A substantially flat blade body having a selected overall surface configuration with a predetermined cross sectional thickness dimension and defining an outer, leading blade base edge,

b) A plurality of outwardly projecting, cutting saw teeth on and extending along said outer leading base edge and forming an extending line of projecting cutting saw teeth therealong, said cutting saw teeth having predetermined tooth configurations and tooth heights from said leading base edge selected for desired cutting characteristics and materials to be cut by the saw blade,

c) an outwardly projecting fracturing member on said outer leading base edge disposed at a predetermined position therealong interrupting said extending line of cutting saw teeth, said fracturing tooth member configured with a non-cutting impact surface and having an overall height from said outer leading base edge between 1.2 and 4 times the overall tooth height of the corresponding cutting saw teeth from said leading base edge and forming a raised, non-cutting impact surface projecting outwardly beyond the outermost line of said cutting saw teeth extending along the outer leading base edge of the blade body, and

d) support means on the saw blade for releasable interengagment of the saw blade to a saw blade drive source for supporting and moving the saw blade relative to a material to be cut and for operative sawing interengagement of the saw blade with the material,

e) whereby during sawing, cutting engagement of the cutting saw teeth against the material is momentarily interrupted by abutting, non-cutting, shattering impact contact of the projecting fracturing member against the material, effectively fracturing the material immediately prior to continued cutting engagement of the cutting saw teeth extending along said leading base edge against the impacted surface of the material.

2. The saw blade of claim 1 wherein said flat blade body is configured as a longitudinally elongated hand saw blade with said outer leading blade base edge extending along substantially the entire length of one longitudinal edge thereof between front and rear longitudinal ends of the blade body and said support means comprises a hand grip handle member on the rear longitudinal end of said flat blade body for hand-held support and sawing movement of the saw blade on a material to be cut.

3. The saw blade of claim 2 wherein said flat blade body and cutting tooth configurations are selected to form a snow saw blade for facilitated sawing of ice and snow.

4. The saw blade of claim 3 including a second, projecting fracturing member on said leading blade base edge disposed a spaced distance from said first fracturing member and separated therefrom by an extending line of cutting saw teeth.

5. The saw blade of claim 1 including a second, projecting fracturing member on said leading blade base edge disposed a spaced distance from said first fracturing member and separated therefrom by an extending line of cutting saw teeth.

6. The saw blade of claim 1 wherein said flat blade body is configured as a circular saw blade body and said outer leading base blade edge forms the outer circumferential edge of the blade body, and said support means comprises an arbor through the blade body at its diametric center point configured for releasable mounting interengagement with a rotating drive shaft of a circular saw.